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DISAFFECTION AMONG MINERS GROWS;
PRODUCTION LAGS, COAL SCARCE

COAL SHORTAGE LOOMS -- New York, Riportok es Hitek Magyarorszagrol, 1, 16 Dec 60

Disaffection is constantly growing among Salgotarjan, Pecs, and Dorog miners. Responsibility for the unrest is customarily laid on the engineers, foremen and officials. Control committees visiting the mines pass on any bad reports to the party center.

At the Brennberg mine, two engineers and three miners were sentenced to death by a court-martial and executed for acts of sabotage. To counter the ensuing protests of the miners, the party spread the news that the accused had been executed for smuggling several persons to the West by means of a tunnel, opening near the Austrian border.

Following a large-scale investigation of the Ministry of Mines and Power, two leading officials were charged with sabotaging the innovation movement and nine others were reduced to physical labor in the mines.

At miners' meetings there are no comments and movements are carried poorly. Only 6 innovations have been submitted in the mining industry during 1950, and most of these have been "sabotaged."

Production is constantly decreasing and earnings are low because of the new norms. Since few can exceed the 180-percent production norm for several hours at a time, a miner rarely earns as much as 100-120 forints per week. Production of the Kisterenye, Nograd County, mines is 30 percent less than in November 1949. During one month, 1,761 work hours were lost at Borsod County mines. Production at the Varpalota Veszprem County mines is 80 percent of the scheduled amount. The antiquated air-purifying apparatus at the Salgotarjan mines has not been replaced, and miners must work in dirt and dust. There is a shortage of mine trucks at the Felsocsinger mine. [Veszprem County?] since a loaded train of cars was derailed. The mine is operating at half capacity.

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Meanwhile, the coal shortage becomes more acute. At the Obuda shipyards, most of the ships planned for reparations were not completed by the November deadline. The number of express trains has been reduced, and there is 40 percent less coal available for private consumption. The government has begun an electricity-conservation contest to ease the coal shortage.

Because of the fuel shortage, coal has been stolen from cars standing in railroad yards. On the night of 28 November so many men appeared at the Rakospalota yards that railroad employees standing watch over the cars of coal were forced to call the police. AVO agents conducted an investigation in the vicinity that night and arrested about 20 persons because sacks of coal were found in their homes.

At the end of November the Manpower Reserve Office called mining officials out of retirement, including those over 65 and several who had been dismissed for political reasons. Army units and imprisoned soldiers are also being used for work in mines. The government recently issued a call practically begging youths to volunteer for work in the mines.

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TO RATION COAL, POWER -- Stockholm, Dagens Nyheter, 24 Nov 50

Budapest, 23 November -- Because of the inability of the Hungarian coal industry to keep pace with the development of industry in the country, the rationing of coal and electric power will be introduced, it is reported officially. Coal deliveries for industry and transportation will be lower by 5 percent. Next year, however, the production of coal will be increased 20 percent.

FUEL RELEASED ONLY FOR DOLLARS -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 25 Nov 50

Heated discussions are going on in Budapest concerning the government's propaganda drive to deliver fuel in Budapest only upon the payment of dollars received from Hungarians living in America. Carloads of coal and wood are standing in the Kobanya and Obuda yards of the Fuel Commerce Enterprise, but cannot be bought for Hungarian forints. The government hopes to acquire several hundred thousand dollars by this plan, which will be used to support Communist activities abroad.

COAL, WOOD SHORTAGE -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 23 Dec 50

A government order prohibits standing in line outside retail coal and wood stores since deserving persons have already received their ration cards, and those without cards will not receive fuel. People also stand in line to get petroleum, but rarely get as much as 2 liters at a time.

MINE SHAFT COLLAPSES -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 25 Nov 50

Early in October, a mine shaft collapsed at Dorog, killing one and seriously injuring eight miners. The injured were taken to Kolto hospital. Miners who participated in the rescue operations, and who consequently could not work in the mines that day, lost one day's pay.

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